

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 312

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Head Coach Dexter Williams and the Liberty Technology Magnet High School boys' basketball team upon winning the 2006-2007 TSSAA Class AA State Championship.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school athletic teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Liberty Technology Magnet High School boys' basketball team is one such estimable team that recently won the 2007 TSSAA Class AA Boys Basketball State Tournament for the second consecutive year; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Dexter Williams, the Liberty Technology Magnet High School Crusaders basketball team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2006-2007 season, establishing an excellent record of thirty-seven wins against only three losses, and claiming the District 12-AA Title and the Region 6-AA Title on the road to winning the TSSAA Class AA Boys' Basketball State Championship; and

WHEREAS, after vanquishing Pearl Cohn, 88-63, at the sub-state level to advance to the State Tournament in Murfreesboro, the Liberty Crusaders demolished Fulton in the first round by a score of 72-47, and defeated Dyer County, 90-74, in the semi-finals to advance to their second straight Class AA State Championship final; and

WHEREAS, facing the very same adversary from last season's championship game, Liberty crushed Memphis Mitchell decisively, 89-70, as State Tournament Most Valuable Player Josh Sain scored 34 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, to claim their second consecutive state title; and

WHEREAS, joining MVP Josh Sain on the All-Tournament team were teammates Jewuan Long, DeVon Jones, Anthony Sampson, and Antwan Long who comprise the Crusaders' starting five, making what is believed to be state tournament history as, for the first time ever, five players from the same team were awarded the OK honor; and

WHEREAS, bringing more accolades and awards home to Jackson, Crusader guard Jewuan Long was named the 2007 TSSAA Mr. Basketball for Class AA OK RISE/Sports Illustrated has ranked Liberty as 14th in the nation among all boys' high school basketball teams; and

WHEREAS, Liberty has been called "one of the best teams to come through the state in any class in some time" by longtime TSSAA Executive Director Ronnie Carter; their dominating performance during the postseason is exemplified by their statistics, as they held opponents to 36 percent shooting, forced 64 turnovers, and won by an average of 22 points in the state tournament; and

WHEREAS, the members of this extraordinary championship team are Chris Johnson, Anthony Sampson, Juawom Cain, Hakeem Brice, Ricky Williams, Cordaro Williams, Antwan Long, Jarsten Clark, Charles Holt, Josh Sain, Ricky Parks, Devon Jones, Matt Tomlin, Jewuan Long, Tarius John, Jay Greer, Marlin Dotson, Brandon Ware, JaJuan Blaylock, and Kirby Tritt; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Head Coach Dexter Williams's able leadership, the Liberty Crusaders benefited from the hard work and guidance of Assistant Coach Terrell Green and Managers Darius DeBerry, Chad DeBerry, Ethan Stovall, Yeri Bethea, and Josh Lindsey; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable team and coaching staff enjoys the support and leadership of Liberty Technology Magnet High School Principal Johnny Reynolds and Athletic Director Jon "Flipper" Burks; and

WHEREAS, displaying great sportsmanship and outstanding character throughout the season, the members of the Liberty Technology Magnet High School boys' basketball team conducted themselves in a manner appropriate to the integrity of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a memorable championship season, but also surely point toward their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the tremendous accomplishments of its athletic teams that have succeeded both on the court and in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the Liberty Technology Magnet High School boys' basketball team upon winning the 2006-2007 TSSAA Class AA Boys' Basketball State Championship and wish them success in every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.